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Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

GEORGE GOODRITZ	:	No.
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
CENTRA ASSOCIATES, L.P.	:	
and	:	
E-Z PARKING MANAGEMENT, INC.	:	COMPLAINT
	:	
Defendants	:	

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

George Goodritz (the “Plaintiff”), by and through his counsel, brings this lawsuit against Centra Associates, L.P., and E-Z Parking Management Inc., seeking all available relief under the Americans with Disabilities Act for the failure to comply with the Act’s accessibility requirements. Plaintiff is seeking injunctive relief requiring the Defendants to remove the accessibility barriers which exist at their parking facility. The allegations contained herein are based on personal experience of the Plaintiff.

I. JURISDICTION

1. This action is brought pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*
2. This civil controversy arises under the laws of the United States, and jurisdiction is conferred upon this District Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331.

II. VENUE

3. All actions complained of herein took place within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
4. Venue is proper in this judicial District as provided by 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

III. PARTIES

5. Plaintiff is a 69 year-old adult male who currently resides in Montgomery County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
6. Plaintiff is a disabled individual.
7. Centra Associates, L.P. (“Defendant Centra”) is a domestic limited partnership registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State under entity identification number 809560.
8. According to the Philadelphia Board of Revision of Taxes, Defendant Centra is listed as the owner of the property located at 912 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, having a tax account number of 885806780.
9. Defendant Centra has a business address of 1 Bala Plaza, Suite 623, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania 19004.
10. E-Z Park, Inc., (“Defendant E-Z”) is a domestic corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State under entity identification number 702660.

11. Defendant E-Z has a business address of 111 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.
12. Defendant Centra and Defendant E-Z are collectively referred to herein as the “Defendants.”

IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Parking Facility

13. Defendant Centra owns a public parking lot located at 912-914 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 (the “Parking Facility”).
14. Upon information and belief, Defendant E-Z manages the Parking Facility for Defendant Centra.
15. For a fee, an individual can park a vehicle in the Parking Facility at the prevailing market rates.
16. The Parking Facility has approximately 40 (forty) parking spaces.
17. The entrance to the Parking Facility is on Arch Street.
18. There is only one (1) parking space at the Parking Facility’s lot that is marked as being handicap-accessible. (**See Exhibit A**)
19. The handicap space does not have an access aisle.
20. The handicap space does not have any pole-mounted handicap-accessibility signs.

The Plaintiff

21. The Plaintiff is a disabled individual within the meaning of the ADA.
22. The Plaintiff has difficulty walking.
23. The Plaintiff possesses a handicapped parking placard issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

24. The Plaintiff's handicapped parking placard permits him to park his vehicle in spaces designated as being handicap-accessible.
25. The Plaintiff's personal vehicle is a 2016 Toyota RAV 4.
26. The Plaintiff's handicapped placard hangs on the rear-view mirror of his vehicle.
27. The Plaintiff travels to Philadelphia frequently, and is often unable to find parking on the streets.
28. Plaintiff parks in a parking garage or parking lot when on-street parking is not available.
29. The Plaintiff has previously patronized the Parking Facility.
30. The Plaintiff would patronize the Parking Facility in the future, but is currently deterred because of the lack of usable handicap-accessible parking places.

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

31. Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") in 1990 with the purpose of providing "[a] clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities" and "[c]lear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities." 42 U.S.C. § 12101(b).
32. The ADA provides a private right of action for injunctive relief to "any person who is being subject to discrimination on the basis of disability." 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(1).
33. Under the ADA, a disability is defined as "(A) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (B) a record of such an impairment; or (C) being regarded as having such an impairment." 42 U.S.C. § 12102(1).

34. Title III of the ADA provides that “[n]o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182.
35. “It shall be discriminatory to afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(ii).
36. A “public accommodation” are private entities whose operations affect commerce. See 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7).
37. In relevant part, Title III requires that the facilities of a public accommodation be “readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, except where an entity can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable.” 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1).
38. “Readily achievable” means easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense. 28 C.F.R. § 36.104.
39. Under Title III, places of public accommodation and commercial facilities that are newly constructed for occupancy beginning after January 26, 1992, must be “readily accessible to and usable by” individuals with disabilities. 28 C.F.R. § 36.401(a) (1).
40. Existing facilities whose construction predates January 26, 1992, must meet the lesser “barrier removal standard,” which requires the removal of barriers wherever it is

“easily accomplishable and able to be done without undue burden or expense.” 28 C.F.R. § 36.304(a).

41. Discrimination, for purposes of a public accommodation, includes “[a] failure to design and construct facilities for first occupancy later than 30 months after July 26, 1990, that are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities” except where an entity can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements set forth by the ADA. 42 U.S.C. § 12183.
42. Under the ADA, businesses or privately owned facilities that provide goods or services to the public have a continuing obligation to remove accessibility barriers in existing parking lots when it is readily achievable to do so.
43. The restriping/repainting of the parking space borders is relatively inexpensive, and should be readily achievable and easily accomplishable.

Accessible Parking under the ADA

44. The 1991 implementing rules and the 2010 revisions to the ADA set forth the following requirements for handicap-accessible parking spaces:¹

Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided in Parking Facility	Minimum Number of Required Accessible Parking Spaces
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 300	7
301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9

¹ <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm#pgfId-1010282>

501 to 1000	2% of the total number of parking spaces
More than 1001	20, plus 1 for each 100 parking spaces over 1000

45. The ADA requires that handicap-accessible parking spaces be at least 96 (ninety-six) inches wide. See Appendix A to Part 36- Standards for Accessible Design, 28 C.F.R. Part 36.²
46. The width of a parking space is measured from the center of each parking line bordering the parking space.³ (**See Exhibit B**)
47. For cars, the ADA requires that there be an access isle for the handicap-accessible parking space that is at least 60 (sixty) inches wide. (**See Exhibit B**)
48. For vans, the ADA requires that there be an access aisle for the handicap-accessible parking space that is at least 96 (ninety-six) inches wide.⁴
49. The 1991 ADA regulations require that one in every eight accessible spaces must be van accessible.⁵
50. The 2010 ADA regulations state that one in every six accessible spaces must be van accessible.⁶
51. The path a person with a disability takes to enter and move through a facility is called an "accessible route."⁷

² <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

³ Id.

⁴ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-parking#van>

⁵ https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/reg3_2010_appendix_b.htm

⁶ Id.

⁷ http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/title_ii_primer.html

52. This route, which must be at least three feet wide, must remain accessible and not be blocked.⁸

53. Accessible routes must connect parking spaces to accessible entrances.⁹

54. “Facility” means all or any portion of buildings, structures, sites, complexes, equipment, rolling stock or other conveyances, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where the building, property, structure, or equipment is located. 28 C.F.R. § 35.104.

55. ADA accessibility standards require that accessible parking spaces in a parking garage be located on the shortest accessible route from adjacent parking to the accessible entrance of the building.¹⁰

56. ADA Guidance Standards provide that “[a] “path of travel” includes a continuous, unobstructed way of pedestrian passage by means of which the altered area may be approached, entered, and exited, and which connects the altered area with an exterior approach (including sidewalks, streets, and parking areas), an entrance to the facility, and other parts of the facility.”¹¹

57. “An accessible path of travel may consist of walks and sidewalks, curb ramps and other interior or exterior pedestrian ramps; clear floor paths through lobbies, corridors, rooms, and other improved areas; parking access aisles; elevators and lifts; or a combination of these elements.”¹²

⁸ Id.

⁹ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

¹⁰ <http://www.ada.gov/adata1.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm#curbramps>

¹² Id.

Valet Parking

58. The 1991 Standards of the ADA and the 2010 Standards of the ADA require parking facilities that provide valet parking services to have an accessible passenger loading zone.¹³

59. Valet parking facilities must have accessible passenger loading zone that has an access aisle that is a minimum of 60 (sixty) inches wide and extends the full length of the vehicle pull-up space. **(See Exhibit C)**

60. The 1991 ADA Standards and the 2010 ADA Standards both require a passenger loading zone to have a vehicle pull-up space that is a minimum of 96 (ninety-six) inches wide and a minimum of 20 (twenty) feet in length.¹⁴ **(See Exhibit C)**

61. The passenger loading zone must be located on an accessible route to the entrance of the facility.¹⁵

Signage and the ADA

62. The ADA standards require the use of the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) to identify parking spaces which are reserved for use by individuals with disabilities.¹⁶
(See Exhibit D)

63. Handicap-accessible parking spaces must be designed as “reserved” by a showing the ISA.

64. The ISA must be used to identify accessible passenger loading zones.

¹³ https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/reg3_2010_appendix_b.htm

¹⁴ https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/reg3_2010_appendix_b.htm

¹⁵ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/adaag#4.6.6>

¹⁶ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/adaag#4.1>

65. Directional signage must be used at inaccessible entrances to provide directions to the nearest accessible route.

66. Parking space identification signs shall be 60 (sixty) inches minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign.¹⁷

COUNT I –

**FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE PROPER NUMBER OF HANDICAP-
ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES**

67. All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

68. The United States Supreme Court recognized the term “major life activities” includes walking. Bragdon v. Abbott, 524 U.S. 624, 638–39 (1998).

69. The Plaintiff is a disabled individual within the meaning of the ADA.

70. The major life activity that the constitutes the Plaintiff’s disability is his difficulty walking distances.

71. Defendants failed to provide more than 1 (one) parking space that was labeled as “handicap accessible” at the Parking Facility.

72. Defendants failed to provide more than 1 (one) parking spot for cars which is 96 inches wide with an accompanying 60-inch wide adjacent access aisle.

73. Defendants failed to provide any parking spot for vans which has an accompanying 96-inch wide adjacent access aisle.

74. Defendants failed to provide any parking spaces that are labeled as “handicap accessible” by a van at the Parking Facility.

¹⁷ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

75. The Parking Facility's failure to provide more than one handicap-accessible parking space has created an accessibility barrier for the Plaintiff, and other similarly situated disabled individuals.
76. Defendant Centra is responsible for ensuring the Parking Facility's compliance with the ADA.
77. Defendant E-Z is responsible for ensuring the Parking Facility's compliance with the ADA.
78. The Defendants can remedy their non-compliance with the ADA's parking requirements by designating one of the available non-handicap-accessible spaces as handicap-accessible space for a car.
79. The Defendants can remedy their non-compliance with the ADA's parking requirements by designating one of the available non-handicap-accessible spaces as handicap-accessible space for a van.
80. Compliance with the handicap parking space requirements at the Parking Facility is readily achievable.
81. The Defendants' failure to comply with the ADA has denied the Plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of the parking offered by the Parking Facility.
82. Because his walking distance is limited, the Plaintiff is adversely affected by the Parking Facility's failure to comply with the ADA.
83. The Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by their failure to comply with the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendant to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendant as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II-

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE SIGNAGE & ACCESS
REQUIRMENTS UNDER THE ADA**

84. All of the preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

85. The Parking Facility does not have any directional signs for the nearest accessible route.

86. The Parking Facility does not have any marked passenger loading zones for any valet area.

87. The Parking Facility does not have any handicap-accessible parking signs.

88. The Parking Facility does not have any van-accessible handicap-accessible parking signs.

89. The Parking Facility does not have any marked accessible routes.

90. The Defendants can remedy their non-compliance by reallocating existing parking spaces and painting border lines which conform to the dimensional requirements of the ADA for handicap-accessible parking spaces and access aisles.

91. Because his walking distance is limited, the Plaintiff is adversely affected by the Parking Facility's failure to comply with the ADA handicap-accessible parking requirements.

92. The Defendants' failure to comply with the ADA handicap-accessible parking requirements has denied the Plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of parking offered by the Parking Facility.

93. The Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by their failure to comply with the ADA handicap-accessible parking requirements.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendant to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendant as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

By: FJR5566

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Attorney for Plaintiff, George Goodritz
Dated: May 12, 2017

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Franklin J. Rooks Jr., certify that I served Plaintiff's Complaint via the Court's ECF system.

By: FJR5566

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Attorney for Plaintiff, George Goodritz
Dated: May 12, 2017

EXHIBIT A

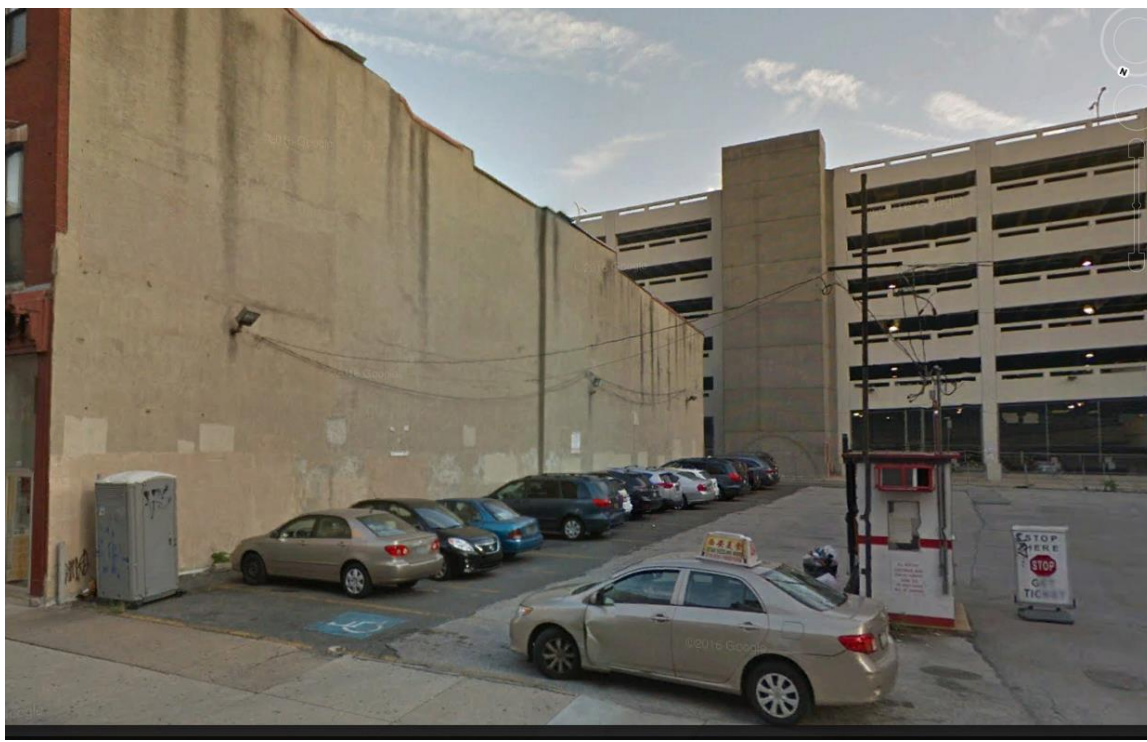


EXHIBIT B

(Source: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-parking#spaces>)

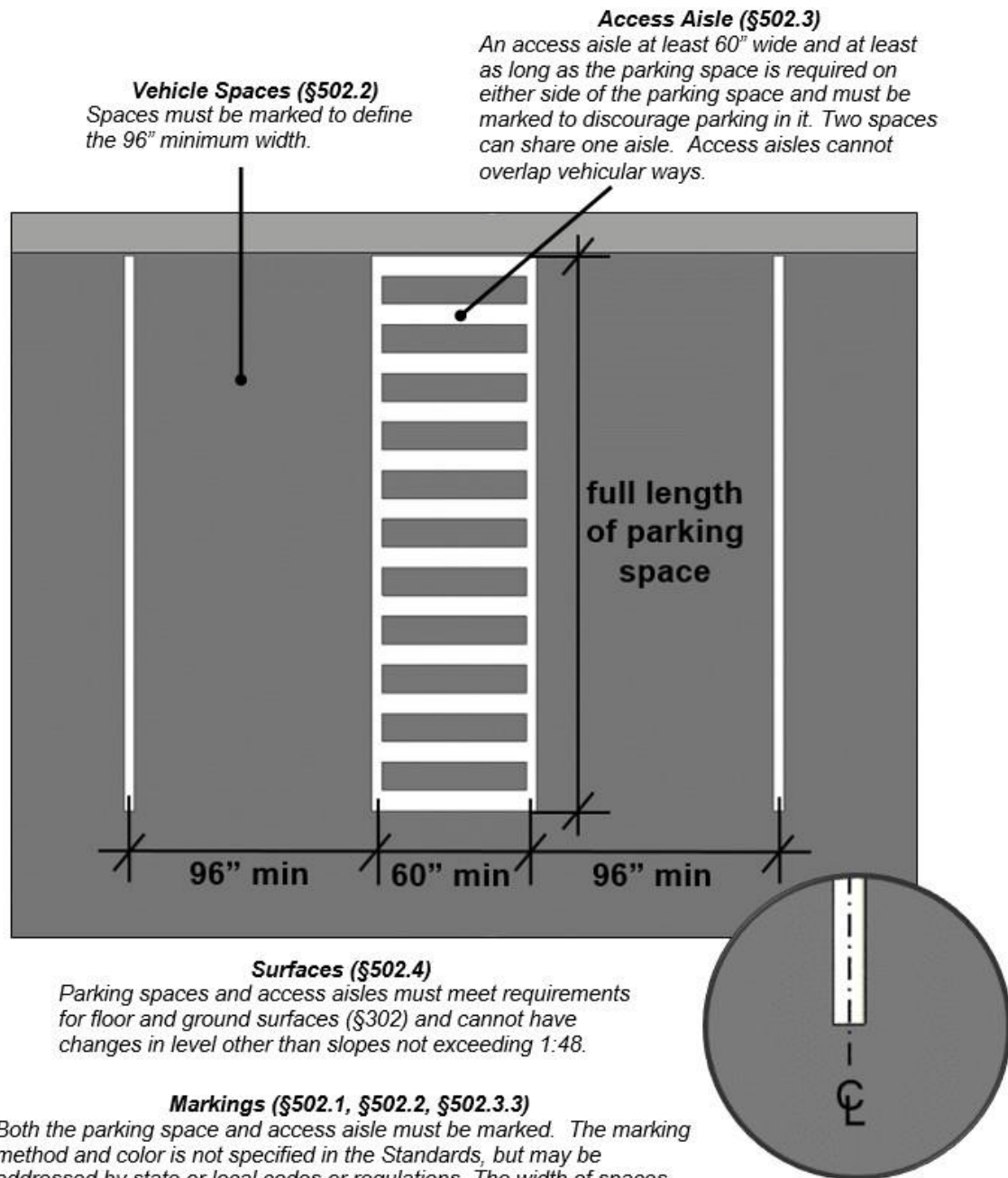


EXHIBIT C

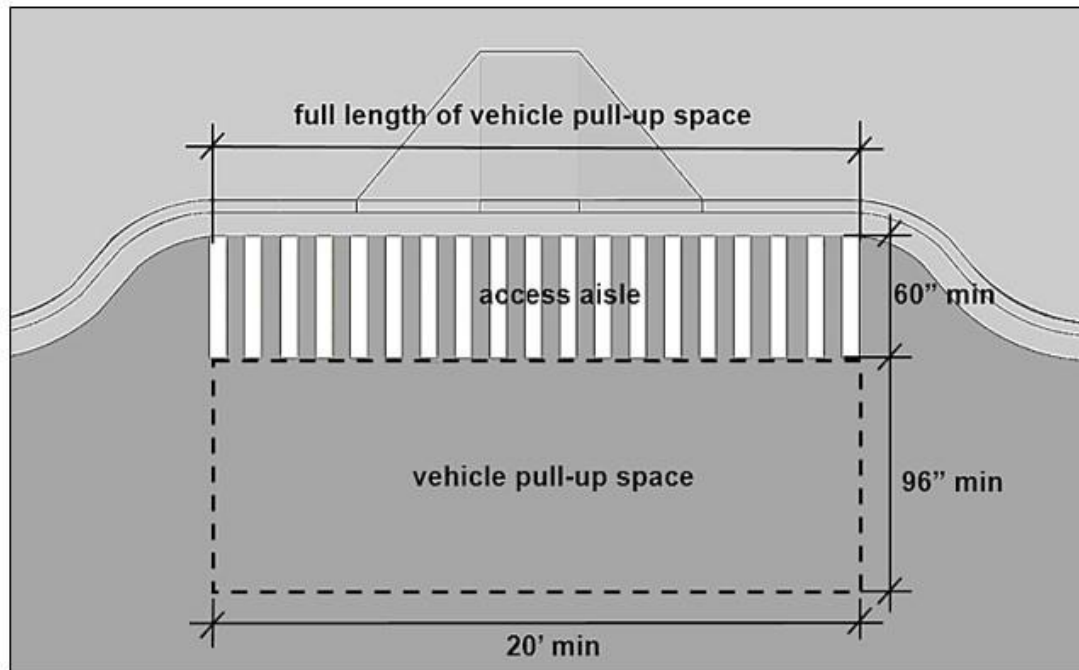
Source: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-passenger-loading-zones>

Vehicle Pull-Up Space (§503.2)

The vehicle pull-up space must be at least 96" wide and at least 20' long.

Access Aisle (§503.3)

A marked access aisle is required next to, and at the same level as, the vehicle pull-up space. The access aisle must be at least 60" wide, extend the full length of the vehicle pull-up space, adjoin an accessible route, and cannot overlap vehicular ways. The marking method and color is not specified.



Surfaces (§503.4)

Vehicle pull-up spaces and access aisles must meet requirements for ground and floor surfaces (§302) and cannot have changes in level other than slopes not steeper than 1:48. Curb ramps cannot overlap access aisles or vehicle pull-up spaces.

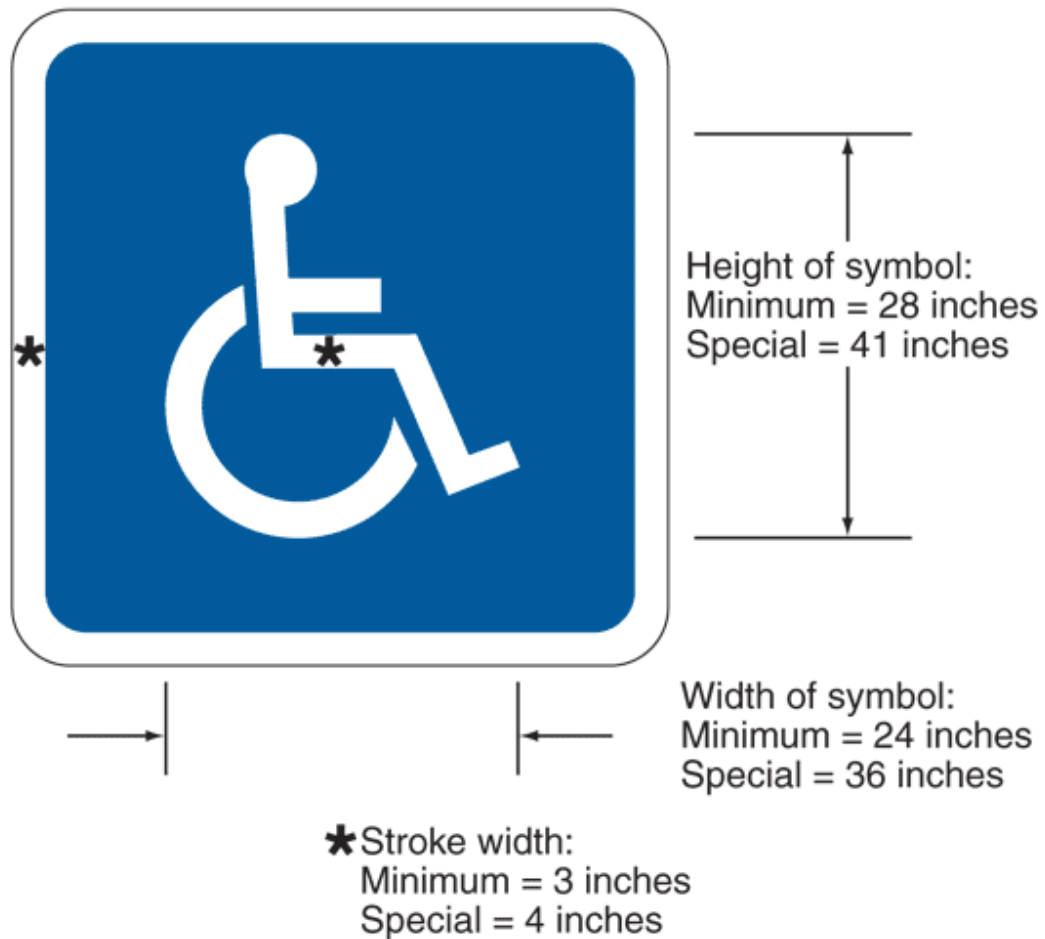
Vertical Clearance (§503.5)

A vertical clearance of 114" is required at the vehicle pull-up space and access aisle and along a vehicular route connecting them to a vehicle entrance and exit.

Accessible passenger loading zones are not required to be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility.

EXHIBIT D

Figure 3B-22. International Symbol of Accessibility Parking Space Marking



Note: Blue background and
white border are optional
